

**County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health**  
**OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION**

Thursday, November 21, 2013

~ **Minutes** ~

**Please note the minutes are a brief summary and not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.**

**Larry Gasco, Chairman, Presiding**

**1. Call to Order – Larry Gasco**

- The meeting was called to order by Larry Gasco
- Roll Call by Canetana Hurd
- Attendance recorded as follows:  
Absent excused: Herman DeBose  
Approval of Minutes – Chair motioned for approval of September 2013 minutes, motion seconded, and carried.

**2. Program Update – Mary Marx**

Ms. Marx provided an update on the State Hospital Bed program discussing the following:

- CALMesa is the one voice for all counties. Plan to renegotiate bed rate for prevention and early intervention support.
- 20-50% increase of hospital beds, no increase yet for this year.
- Develop board letter to allow Cal Mesa to negotiate on behalf of DMH for bed rates. Significant cost savings should be realized
- 2008 changes were made to hospital bed contracts
- Funding provided under SB 82 for urgent care in Antelope Valley
- On December 19 will provide update on AB 109 year 1 & 2.

**ACTION** – Place Mary Marx on agenda for Executive Committee meeting January 9, 2014.

**3. Chairman's Report – Larry Gasco**

- **Executive Committee Report** – November 11 minutes correction – Add Barry Perrou to attendance in the minutes. Chairman Gasco discussed the new employee orientation. Several workgroups are available for Commissioners to participate. The Commission has accepted Sharon Lyle's application for Commissioner. Meeting with Judge Tynan planned. Catherine Bond reported on the major projects Empowerment and Advocacy Division developed for fiscal year 2013-2014.
- **MHC/SAAC Chairs Report** – The meeting was held November 21. Meeting consisted of discussions surrounding updates concerning each Service Area Advisory. Multiple announcements regarding newly implemented projects and upcoming elections.
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4. **Public Comments**

**Patricia Russell** – Kamala Harris held a press conference yesterday to announce a new Department of Justice aimed at reducing the number of crimes committed by those released from jail to work with counties

**Cindy Czernek** – Recently, we had API Hope and Recovery conference, which was very successful, but there were budget cuts in the middle of our planning. Is there a way to stop a cut at a certain time, so we're not scrambling to cut foods or maybe persons who we have at our conference?

**Lolita S. Namocatcat** – I am an outpatient. I am in recovery situation. Do I qualify for any of the housing projects without undergoing homelessness?

**John Glover** – Advocate for increase in urgent care services in the Antelope Valley/Service Area 1

- Need a mental health urgent care (SB 82)
- More effective PMRT, or MET team
- Increase number of inpatient hospital beds
- Need for mental homes and transitional housing (AB 361), other housing type projects, available to all adults would help.

Number one homeless shelter is at risk of having funds pulled.

**Sawako Nitao** – Yesterday we had a nice presentation at American Indian Conference. We much needed to attend this opportunity because the history will be shared with generations and to their culture and tribe history.

**Chanh To, API Speakers Bureau** – Happy Thanksgiving from Heritage at Vermont and Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science. Announced Farmers Market in November.

**Michelle Binoya** – I live in what has been told to me, in section 1 in the Antelope Valley. We are an underserved area of Los Angeles County, where there is not enough resources for those with mental illness. For a community of 600,000 people, there are 17 beds in the psychiatric unit at Antelope Valley Hospital. The next available place is more than 40 miles away. I believe that we also need more peer run center or groups available for our community.

**David Heseltine** – Reported:

- The lack of available resources for acute and short-term needs for those with mental illness in the Antelope Valley.
- The prolonged response of PET teams in the AV.
- Lack of state, county or federal resources for the homeless in the Antelope Valley area which has risen 400% in the last 2 ½ years.

**Mark Karmatz** – Wellness Recover Action plan in the jails. Obama care was presented at the Santa Monica Library. The presentation will also be given in Long Beach.

**Kevin Buckley** – We need more after hour places. We have one and we need more healthcare places.

**Maria Elana Juarez** – Wants to ride on the bus to the Antelope Valley meeting.

5. **DMH Report – Rod Shaner, MD, DMH Medical Director**

## 6. Commissioners' Reports

**Commissioner Delores Huffman** announced; NAMI Walk is scheduled October 8, 2013 in Santa Monica, Obama Care meetings are being held in many communities, many landlords want to continue leasing to the TAY population after age 25, no decision has been made regarding this issue.

**Commissioner Judy Cooperberg** announced Barry Perrou received the Richard S. Van Horn Pioneer Award at MHA's Golden Bell Awards ceremony on October 9th. This was for his pioneering of law enforcement mental health interventions in LA County and nationally; especially his assistance in establishing the Law Enforcement Mental Health training program in the Antelope Valley.

**Commissioner Herman DeBose** commented that the Commission needs to do whatever necessary to fill the vacancies in Supervisory District 1 and 4. Commissioner DeBose further asked what happens to CALMHBC representative vacancies; Los Angeles County has two.

**Commissioner Victoria Sofro** reported on the recent Employment and Education report. The report includes outcomes for FSP results, and that Employment and Education is very excited about being a part of the data. Next month's report will be shared with the Commission. Commissioner Sofro further reported that there are approximately 100 wellness centers operating, some are stand-alone and others are in directly operated clinics.

## 7. SAAC/Community Reports/LACCC

### SAAC Reports

#### SAAC 1 – Jean Harris reported:

- JoEllen Perkins, DMH District Chief, presented a new structure that will help standardize the SAAC membership
- Held its first executive meeting and reviewed the minutes
- SLT update
- Quality Assurance update on nutrition and health insurance
- Mental Health Commission will be back to meet in the Antelope Valley in December 2013
- Update on Antelope Valley Mental Health.
- Issued membership applications

**SAAC 2** – Barbara Wilson thanked the Commission for interest in Service Area 1 and the developments in law enforcement training. In SAAC 2 pilot projects are going on. Ms. Wilson further discussed a situation in the Service Area pertaining to conservatorship.

**SAAC 6 – Dorothy Banks** thanked Chairman Gasco for attending the recent SAAC 6 meeting. Ms. Banks further announced other topics from the meeting; SAAC moving forward to develop 7 sub committees, of the 8 goals 2 were voted to move on now, and Yvette Townsend will attend the next meeting.

**SAAC 8 – John Czernek** announced the SAAC was dark in July. Project Return presentation and training with Dr. Goodwin on strategic planning will take place at the next meeting.

**Los Angeles County Client Coalition (LACCC)** – Phyllis Coto reported:

- Attended triage training
- 75% membership increase in active members. Members involved in education and training programs at DMH
- Participating in the NAMI Walks

8. **Meeting adjourned**

9. **NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, December 19, 2013  
11 am – 1:30 pm  
Mental Health America of Los Angeles  
506 West Jackman St  
Lancaster, CA 93594

Minutes prepared by Canetana Hurd